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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

5 July 1951

The Honorable Homer Ferguson
United States Senate
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Senator Ferguson:

Thank you for your letter of June 26th, relative to Larry S. Davidow and the Russian veterans' organization.

You will remember that in my letter of April 3rd I mentioned our hope of arranging a meeting in Detroit with Mr. Davidow, preliminary to a further study of the utilization of the Russian veterans' organization, about which you had written to General Bradley. In consequence of that meeting, and of an additional meeting with the New York headquarters of the Russian War Veterans Association (to which Mr. Davidow referred us) we learned that a similar proposal to organize a combat unit of Russian expatriates had already been made to Secretary of the Army Pace by the Association. The Department of the Army assures me that this proposal is being given careful study.

Since Mr. Davidow's proposal is related only indirectly to our primary mission of the collection and evaluation of foreign intelligence, and since the matter is now under action consideration by the Department of the Army, we do not propose to take any further action on it at this time.

[redacted] has already informed Mr. Davidow that his proposal is being considered by the Department of the Army rather than by the Central Intelligence Agency.

I appreciate your initiative in bringing this matter to my attention, and your continued interest in it.

Sincerely,

(Signed)

Walter B. Smith
Director

[redacted] - OO/C - 3 July 51
OO:IKW:jlm - 5 July 51

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REMARKS: On 5 March General Bradley forwarded to DCI material from Sen. Homer Ferguson on a Russian war veterans organization. The information referred to one of Sen. Ferguson's constituents, Mr. Larry S. Davidow from Detroit.

An interview with Mr. Davidow by

developed the following proposal speaking for the Russian War Veterans Assn Davidow proposed the organization of a combat

members of the White Imperial Army. Further, Mr. Davidow referred the Contact Division representative to the headquarters of the Association in New York.

From the New York headquarters of the Assn' we then learned that a duplicate proposal for the use of these Russians already had been made to General Donovan by Col. Serge Obolensky and that Donovan in turn had made the proposal direct to Secretary Pace. Contact Division then learned from G-2 that the proposal was firmly in Army hands, and was being studied by G-3 and the Psychological Warfare Division. At the same time, both OPC and OSO evinced complete lack of interest in utilizing the Russian War Veterans Association. Consequently, Contact Division informed Army that it would take no further action on the Davidow/Obolensky proposal, and would leave it entirely in Pentagon hands. The Division then informed Mr. Davidow that the N. Y. headquarters of his Association already had established contact with the Army, that the proposal was being considered by Army, and that CIA would take no further action. Mr. Davidow now has been told this several times.

We assume that this latest attempt to prod Sen. Ferguson into prodding CIA is merely another evidence of the factionalism within the Russian War Veterans Ass'n, and the fact that each clique distrusts every other clique.

For your info, Army G-3 informs us it has no interest in the Davidow/Obolensky proposal, but hesitates to give Gen. Donovan a definite "no".

Your signature on the attached letter to Sen. Ferguson is recommended.